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CIA AND POLICE TRAINING

NEWSCASTER: The new director of the Central Intelligence Agency has ordered an immediate halt to the training of local police officers, including those in New York City, except in what are called the most compelling circumstances. The chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, California's Chet Hollifield, says fewer than fifty people and police officers in the New York and Washington areas and other metropolitan regions participated in such training. But another federal lawmaker whose research revealed apparently unlawful CIA activity with American police forces thinks more needs to be done in getting a firmer CIA commitment to desist. Here is newsman Paul MacElroy with the story.

PAUL McELROY: New York Congressman Ed Koch said he's pleased with CIA director James Schlesinger's decision to stop training local police except in the most compelling of circumstances. Koch, you'll recall, raised a cry over the CIA training of police last February 6, saying it violated the 1947 National Securities Act. He says while he's pleased with this latest CIA commitment, it's still not enough.

EDWARD KOCH: My position, from the beginning and at the present time, is that you cannot violate the law even a little bit if you are a law enforcement agency. That's like saying you're just a little bit pregnant. You're either violating the law or you're not violating the law. If I'm correct, the CIA was violating the law, and if they continue, even though they reduce their activities with respect to surveillance and other things vis-a-vis the local police forces in this country, they continue to violate the law and that cannot be tolerated.

McELROY: So, Koch says, he's requested a legal ruling from the GAO--the General Accounting Office--which he expects within ten days. But if necessary, he says, he'll press for legislation to see that the CIA training of police in this country is halted.